

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01

USSS-00 CA-01 A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00

INRE-00 SAB-02 SYE-00 /087 W

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O 150629Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7527

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PBOR, ASEC, PN

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE IN UNIVERSITY

1. SERIOUS VIOLENCE FLARED UP TONIGHT AMONG RIVAL STUDENT GROUPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA (UP), ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM A NUMBER OF RELIABLE SOURCES. LT. COL. MANUEL ANTONIO NORIEGA, NATIONAL GUARD G-2 (GN G-2) HAS CONFIRMED TO US THE DEATH OF ONE STUDENT (REPORTED BY RADIO AS BEING DEMOSTENES RODRIGUEZ ALVAREZ), THE SERIOUS WOUNDING OF TWO MORE, AND SEVEN OTHER INJURIES AS RESULTS OF SHOOTING AND AN EXPLOSION. WE HAVE REPORTS FROM OTHER GOOD SOURCES, HOWEVER, OF THREE DEATHS AND AS MANY AS A DOZEN INJURIES. THE EXPLOSION WHICH OCCURRED AT THE UP, ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT REPORTS, WAS EITHER AN AUTOMOBILE FILLED WITH MOLOTOV COCKTAILS, OR AN EXPLOSION AT A CAMPUS RESTAURANT. INCENDIARY BOMBS WERE ALSO BEING THROWN.

2. A TV NEWS PROGRAM REPORTED THREE DEATHS AND ALSO REPORTED THAT THE UP HAS BEEN CLOSED INDEFINITELY, UNTIL
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AN "INVESTIGATION" IS COMPLETED. OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD, VERY EXCITED AND UPSET ABOUT THESE EVENTS, HAS SURROUNDED THE UP CAMPUS.

3. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE GN HAS NOT YET MOVED ONTO THE CAMPUS, NOR HAS IT ACTED IN THE INCIDENT AT ALL, EXCEPT TO STATION ROUGHLY A COMPANY OF POLICE IN THE AREA.

THE GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED, PRO-TREATY FEDERATION OF PANAMANIAN STUDENTS (FEP) AND ITS ULTRA-LEFT, ANTI-TREATY, ANTI-TORRIJOS RIVALS (GUAYKUCHO, CIRCULO CAMILO TORRES, ETC.) HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN FIGHTING IT OUT AMONG THEMSELVES.

4. THE GN HAS REINFORCED THE GUARD AT THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE. AT 1150 HOURS, THE GUARDS DETAINED FOUR STUDENTS WHO WERE IN A CAR IN THE AREA. AT 0100, THREE MEN ATTEMPTED AN UNSUCCESSFUL BREAK-IN TO THE RESIDENCE GROUNDS.

5. THROUGHOUT THIS FRACAS, TRAFFIC HAS BEEN MOVING FAIRLY NORMALLY ON THE STREETS BORDERING THE UNIVERSITY, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE CLUSTERS OF STUDENTS HANGING AROUND. BY 0030 A.M. THIS MORNING, THE SITUATION HAS BECOME QUIET AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL.
JORDEN

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